



Western Region ROTC

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION N AND REPORTING



Introduction:

Accident investigation and reporting are important tools in every safety program.

Accident investigation aids in determining the cause(s) of an accident, so that we can prevent recurrence.

Accident reporting allows everyone in the Army to share in the



Accident Investigation **Publications**

- **AR 385-40** - Accident Reporting and Records, 1 Nov 94
 - Provides policy and procedures and assigns responsibility for notification, investigation, reporting, and submission of Army accident reports.
- **DA Pam 385-40** - Army Accident Investigation and Reporting , 1 Nov 94
 - Army Accident Investigation “HOW”³



Army Accident Classification

Class A - Death or permanent total disability;
property damage; \$1,000,000 or more
missile destroyed, Army aircraft or
abandoned, missing, or

Class B - Permanent partial disability;
5 or more hospitalized
in a single occurrence;
than \$1,000,000 \$200,000 to less
property damage.



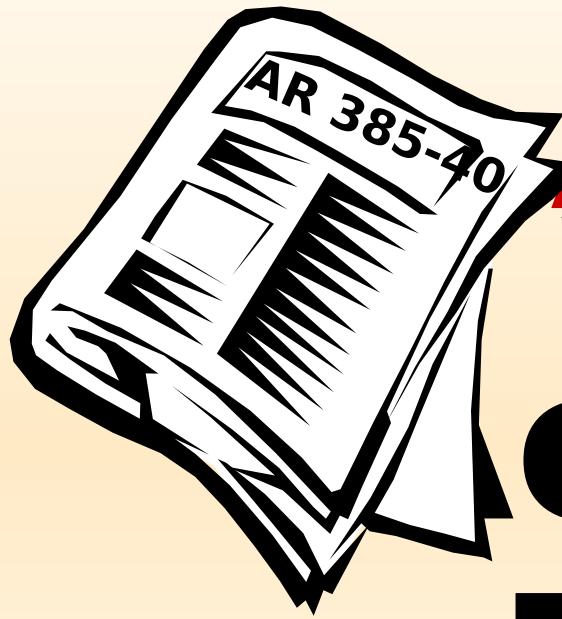
Army Accident Classification

Class C - Non-fatal injury with lost time from work beyond the day of the accident; \$10,000 to less than \$200,000 property damage.

Class D - \$2,000 to less than \$10,000 property damage.

Class E - Aviation only - \$0 to less than \$2,000 Property damage.

Class F - Acft Turbine Engine EOD



AR 385-40

**Accident
Reporting
and
Records**



Purpose of Army Accident Investigation

The **SOLE** purpose of Army accident investigation is the prevention of subsequent Department of the Army accidents._

Accident reports are official documents and may be “used solely for accident



Responsibility for Accident Investigation

**AR 385-40, paragraph 1-4d.
states:**

**“Commanders of major Army
commands (MACOMS) will -**

**(1) Ensure that accidents are
investigated and analyzed to the
extent needed to identify
cause factors and deficiencies**



Western Region ROTC

AR 385-40 Chapter 1 Introduction

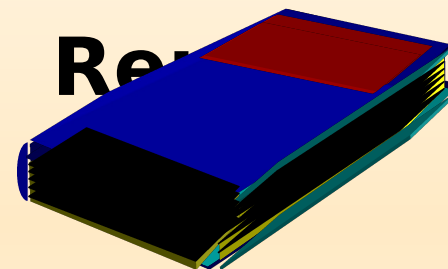
1-6. Note:

Whenever a materiel failure causes or contributes to the cause of an accident, an SF 368, Deficiency Report or Equipment Improvement Report will be completed IAW DA Pam 738-750 (Ground) or DA Pam 738-751 (Aviation) and submitted incident⁹ to the accident report.



AR 385-40 Chapter 1 Introduction

1-7a. Categories of Accident Investigation



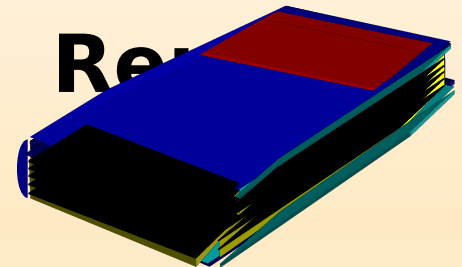
- Limited Use

- All flight and fratricide accidents.
- May be used for other complex weapon systems, equipment, guided missiles, laser, armored vehicles, military unique operations and as determined by the Director of Army Safety.



AR 385-40 Chapter 1 Introduction

1-7a. Categories of Accident Investigation



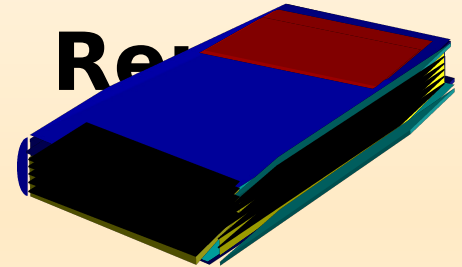
- Limited Use

- Witnesses can be offered a promise of confidentiality if they are unwilling to make a complete statement.
- Reports must be annotated “Limited Use Accident Investigation Report” on each



AR 385-40 Chapter 1 Introduction

1-7a. Categories of Accident Investigation



- General Use

- All recordable accidents that are not classified as limited use.
- Witnesses CANNOT be offered a promise of confidentiality.



1-8. Collateral Investigations and Reports

- Accident board has priority over collateral.
- AR 27-20 or AR 15-6 format.
- Safety personnel, assigned or MOS trained, responsible for conducting investigations **will not** conduct, review, evaluate, assist with, or maintain on file the collateral investigation.

• Required for all Class A accidents



1-9. Accident Board Appointing Authority

Class A and B Ground Accidents

Class A, B, and C Aviation Accidents

- **Commander with General court-martial jurisdiction.**
- **Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Command**
- **State Adjutant Generals (ARNG)**
- **USAREUR - USAREUR and V Corps Commander (Safety Office will**



1-10. Safeguarding Accident Information

- **Reports can only be used for Accident Prevention Purposes.**
- **Cannot be used for:**
 - **Misconduct or line of duty status.**
 - **Flight evaluation boards / MOS reclassification.**
 - **Determining liability claims for or against the government.**
 - **Determining pecuniary liability.**
 - **ANY OTHER ADVERSE PERSONNEL**



1-11. Release of Information

- **Requests for access to limited use and Class A, B, and C general use accident report information must be referred to the United States Army Safety Center (USASC) Commander. (JAG)**
- **Class D general use reports can be released by local safety offices under a FOIA request after Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) consultation.**
- **Refer subpoena requests to local**



AR 385-40 Chapter 2
Procedures for Classifying Army
Accidents, Incidents, Injuries,
Illnesses, Costs, Rates, and
Personnel

- **2-3. - What to Report**
- **2-4. - Types of Accidents**
- **2-4h. - Fires - Require reporting on old DA Form 285, Army Accident report.**
- **2-5. - Occurrences not constituting an Army Accident.**



AR 385-40 Chapter 2

- **2-7. - Non-reportable injuries and Illnesses**
- **2-8. - Recordable Accidents and Incidents**
- **2-9. - Civilian Employee Accident Reporting**
- **2-11 - Accident Costs**
 - **Based on severity of injury or damage.**
 - **Actual labor cost or \$16 an hour standard cost plus AMDF parts cost.**



AR 385-40 Chapter 3

Notification of Army Accidents and Incidents

- **Commander who first becomes aware of accident will report through the chain of command.**
- **DA Form 7305-R Aviation Accidents**
- **DA Form 7306-R Ground Accidents**
- **Utilize a notification matrix from your unit pre-accident plan.**
- **Do not call USASC directly - Chain of Command**



Western Region ROTC

AR 385-40 Chapter 4 Accident Investigation

4-2. - Accident Investigation Boards -CAI / IAI

- Required for all on duty Class A and B and Aviation Class C accidents.**
- 3 member board minimum except Class C Aviation.**
 - President - Field Grade / W5 / GS-12**
 - Recorder**
 - Maintenance Officer**
 - Supplemented by local members.**



AR 385-40 Chapter 4 Accident Investigation

- **4-4. - Support of Army Accident Investigation**
 - **Medical treatment facilities.**
 - **AFIP - Autopsy and lab testing.**
Autopsies and lab testing are mandatory for aircrew members. (AR 40-21)
 - **Ground accident autopsies may be directed IAW AR 40-2 as determined by medical authority.**
 - **Blood/alcohol testing for ground accidents may be command directed**



Western Region ROTC

AR 385-40 Chapter 4 Accident Investigation

- **4-4. - Support of Army Accident Investigation**
 - **Provost Marshall (PMO)**
 - **All installation organizations as required.**
 - **Local authorities.**
- **4-5. - Accident Scene Preservation**
- **4-7. - Access to information from other investigators.**



Western Region ROTC

AR 385-40 Chapter 4 Accident Investigation

- **4-8a. - What you can share with other investigators. (Factual data)**
 - **Tear down analysis reports.**
 - **Command directed physical reports.**
 - **Official records - personnel and equipment.**
 - **Photographs.**



Western Region ROTC

AR 385-40 Chapter 4 Accident Investigation

- 4-8b. - What **you cannot share** with other investigators.
 - Witness statements. (Not sworn statements)
 - Preliminary findings and recommendations
 - Recordings / transcripts of intra-cockpit communications.
- 4-9. - When criminal activity is determined the investigation will be



AR 385-40 Chapter 5

Processing and Command Review of Accident Reports

- **Describes processing and review procedures for completed reports.**
- **Requirements and time tables for accident notification and report submission can be found a Table E-1 (Avn), Page 28 and Table E-2 (Gnd), Page 29.**



Additional Chapters

- **Chapter 7 - Marine Accidents**
- **Chapter 8 - Chemical Agent Accidents**
- **Chapter 9 - Explosives Accidents**
- **Chapter 10 - Ionizing and Non-ionizing Radiation Accidents**
- **Chapter 11 - Nuclear Weapon and Reactor Accidents**
- **Chapter 12 - Biological Defense Mishaps.**



Definitions

- **Army Accident**
- **Army Motor Vehicle**
- **As A Result of Army Operations**
- **Hospitalization**
- **Lost workday case involving days away from work.**
- **Off duty**
- **On duty**
- **Permanent total disability**
- **Permanent partial Disability**
- **Recordable**
- **Reportable**



DA PAM 385-
40

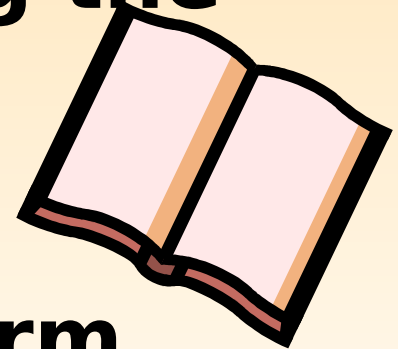
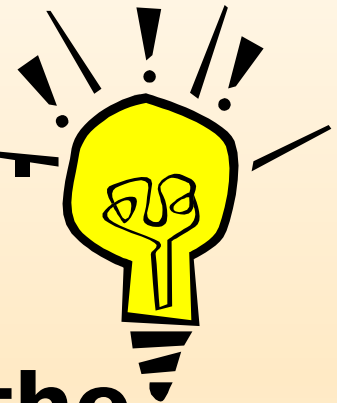
Army Accident

Investigation²⁸



Western Region ROTC

- **DA Pam 385-40 is the “How To” book for Army accident investigation and reporting.**
- **Includes procedures and techniques for conducting the accident investigation.**
- **Provides instructions and reproducible reporting form formats for both ground and aviation accident reporting.**





DA PAM 385-40

- **Chapter 1 - Introduction**
- **Chapter 2 - Investigation Techniques and Procedures**
- **Chapter 3 - Aviation Accident Reporting**
- **Chapter 4 - Ground Accident Reporting**
- **Appendix G-2 and G-3 - Required**



CONCLUSION

Through accident investigation we learn from our mistakes and develop methods to avert future mishaps.

Quality accident investigation is time consuming and oft times difficult, but the rewards are immeasurable in the terms of saved lives and the reduction of property damage